Road-Over-Bridge in Mumbai

1216. SHRI R.K. KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a long-term public demand for a new Road-Over-Bridge(ROB), South of Ghatkopar Railway Station in Mumbai;

(b) whether it is also a fact that new Municipal Corporation of Brihan Mumbai has deposited the requisite funds with the Railways for starting the project;

(c) when the work on the bridge is likely to be started and get completed; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Municipal Corporation of Brihan Mumbai has deposited Rs. 40 lakh as 1st instalment of the Estimated cost of Rs. 175.9 lakh.

(c) and (d) Brihan Muncipal Corporation had proposed for widening of the existing Road Over Bridge near Ghatkopar at Km 18/15-16. It is an additional Road Over Bridge being constructed as a widening of the existing ROB, tenders for which will be opened in Dec. 97 and is likely to be completed by June, 1999.

Mega projects of the Railways

1217. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 50 percent of mega projects of the railways are languishing for want of funds;

(b) if so, whether sanctioning of new projects is the primary reasons for adversely affecting the progress of the ongoing projects; and

(c) the steps taken to maintain the commissioning schedule of the aforesaid mega projects?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present there are only four Mega Projects on Indian Railways. Their position is as follows:

(1) *Metro Rail, Calcutta*

The project has almost been completed. Only residual works remain.

(2) *Konkan Railway*

The project is about to complete. Some minor issues and a small portion of the tunnelling work remains.

(3) *FOIS (Freight Operations Information System)*

This project is behind schedule. Hence a committee comprising of Professors from Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi was entrusted consultancy. Report of the committee has been received and a revised action plan has been initiated.

(4) *Construction of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramula Rail Line*

It is a new project, sanctioned only in 1995.

Open tenders for wagons

1218. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Railways have charged the Ministry of Railways for committing contempt of the House by bypassing the Standing Committee by inviting open tenders for wagons appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 14th October, 1997;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to follow the guidelines set by the Standing Committee and requisite percentage of orders is being placed through Wagon India Ltd.; and

(c) if not, the reasons for this deviation from the guidelines?